

NORTH CAROLINA

Violent Death
Reporting System
Forsyth County 2004 – 2007

March 2010

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

Background and Acknowledgements

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January, 2004. This document summarizes findings from Forsyth County, North Carolina that occurred from 2004 to 2007.

A Statewide Annual Report for 2007 will be completed by summer of 2010. More information can be found at: www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm.

The task of locating, abstracting, entering, and evaluating the data that are used to create the NC-VDRS is challenging, time-consuming and difficult. The extent and quality of the data in this report are the direct result of the dedication of the NC-VDRS staff: Tammy Norwood, Program Manager, and Susan Autry and Pat Jones, Statistical Research Assistants.

Thanks to Sharon Schiro for the analysis and programming of the NC-VDRS data, and Becca Byrd for the formatting and updating of this report.

Three advisory groups provided assistance to us with this report. The leadership of these advisory groups formed the Board Leadership & Evaluation Team (BLET). Members of the BLET for 2007 were Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Kay Sanford, Phillip J. Cook, Sandra Martin, Steve Marshall, and Anna Waller.

We acknowledge the assistance and on-going support of the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, as well as the many local law enforcement agencies throughout N.C. that have provided information to the NC-VDRS.

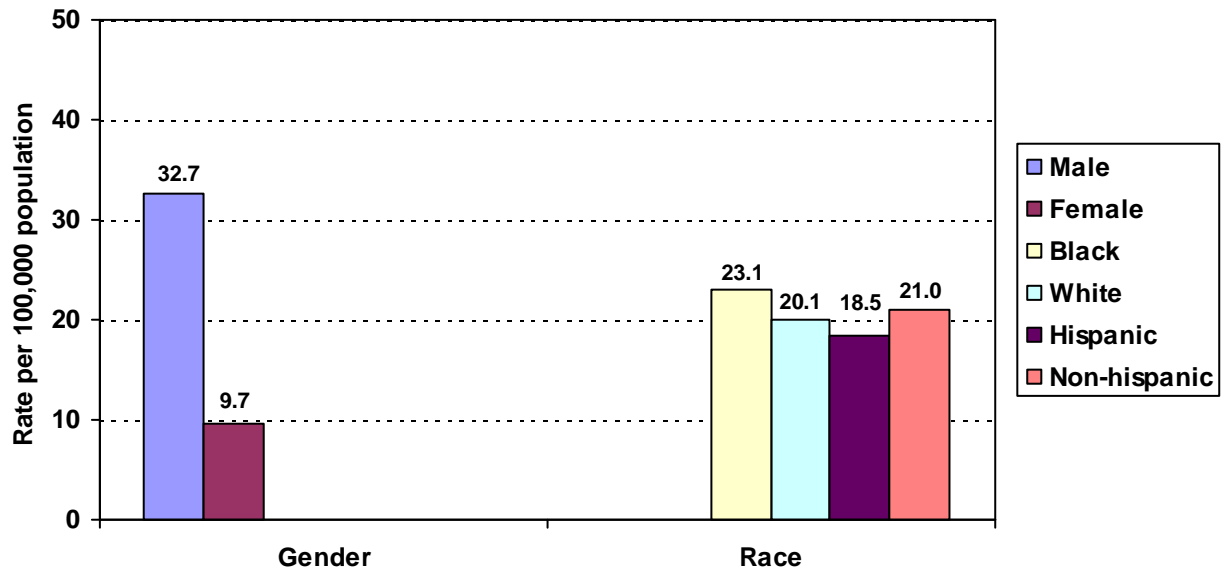
This report was supported in part by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U17CE423098-07 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SECTION I: OVERALL

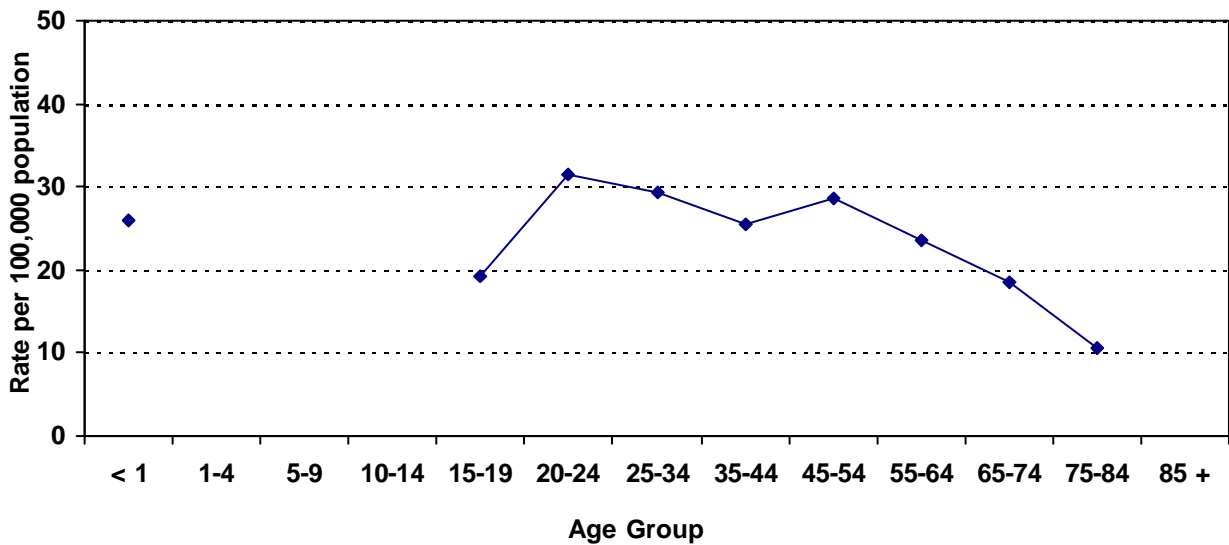
Table 1: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Violent Death Victims in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	206	75.7	32.7	28.2 - 37.2
	Female	66	24.3	9.7	7.4 - 12
Race					
	American Indian	0	0	*	*
	Asian	1	0.4	*	*
	Black	80	29.4	23.1	18.0 - 28.2
	White	189	69.5	20.1	17.2 - 23.0
	Other	1	0.4	*	*
	Unknown	1	0.4	*	*
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	23	8.5	18.5	10.9 - 26.1
	Non-Hispanic	249	91.5	21.0	18.4 - 23.6
Age Group					
	< 1	5	1.8	25.9	3.2 - 48.6
	1 - 4	2	0.7	*	*
	5 - 9	2	0.7	*	*
	10 - 14	4	1.5	*	*
	15 - 19	17	6.3	19.2	10.1 - 28.3
	20 - 24	27	9.9	31.5	19.6 - 43.4
	25 - 34	51	18.8	29.4	21.3 - 37.5
	35 - 44	50	18.4	25.4	18.4 - 32.4
	45 - 54	55	20.2	28.7	21.1 - 36.3
	55 - 64	34	12.5	23.6	15.7 - 31.5
	65 - 74	16	5.9	18.6	9.5 - 27.7
	75 - 84	6	2.2	10.5	2.1 - 18.9
	85 +	3	1.1	*	*
Total Deaths		272	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Overall Violent Death Rates by Gender and Race, Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007



Overall Violent Death Rates by Age, Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

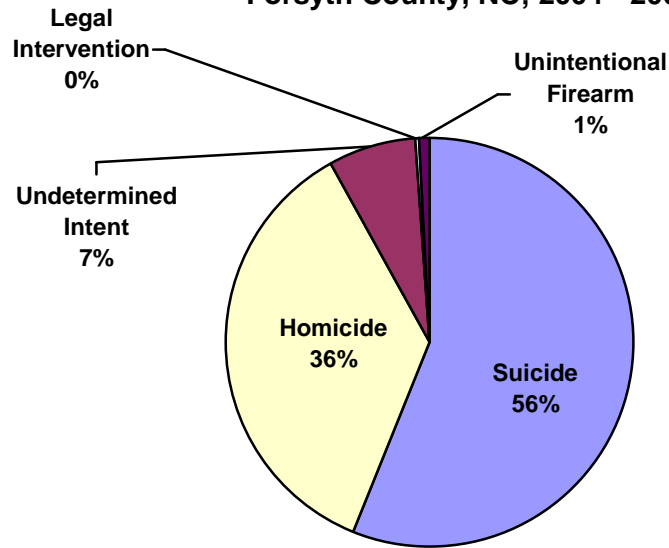


Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

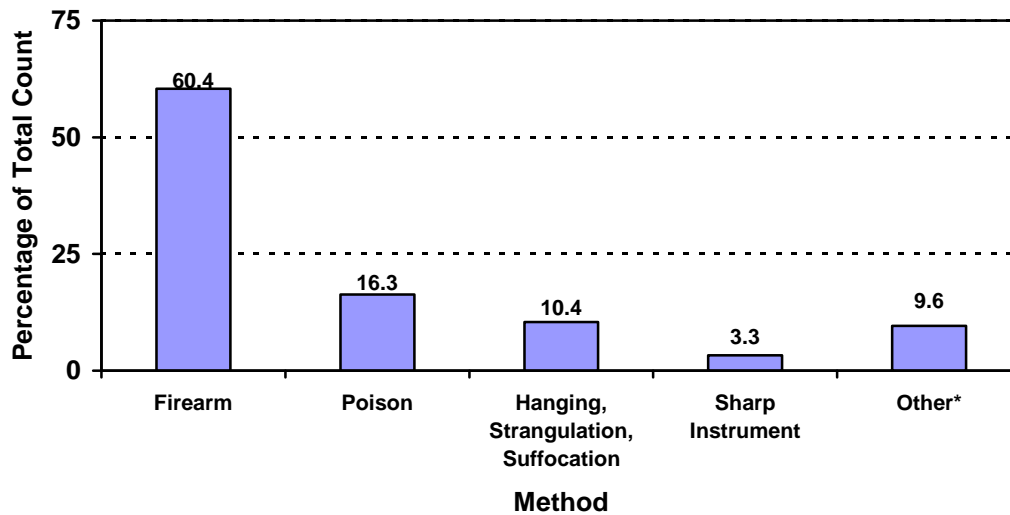
**Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death Victims in
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	153	56.3
	Homicide	97	35.7
	Undetermined Intent	19	7.0
	Legal Intervention Unintentional Firearm	2	0.7
	Legal Intervention	1	0.4
Method			
	Firearm	163	60.4
	Poisoning	44	16.3
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	28	10.4
	Sharp Instrument	9	3.3
	Unarmed Assault	9	3.3
	Blunt Instrument	6	2.2
	Fire or Burns	3	1.1
	Unknown	5	1.8
	Fall	2	0.7
	Motor Vehicle	2	0.7
	Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.4
Total Deaths		272	100

**Manner of Violent Death,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



**Method of Death for Overall Violent Deaths,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, falls, drowning, fires or burns, violent shaking, motor vehicles, other transport vehicles, intentional neglect and other unspecified methods.

Table 3: Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
Asian	1	0.5	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.4
Black	63	30.6	39.8	30.0 - 49.6	17	25.8	9.1	4.8 - 13.4	80	29.4
White	141	68.4	30.7	25.6 - 35.8	48	72.7	10.0	7.2 - 12.8	189	69.5
Other/ Unknown	1	0.5	*	*	1	1.5	*	*	2	0.7
Total Deaths	206	100			66	100			272	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

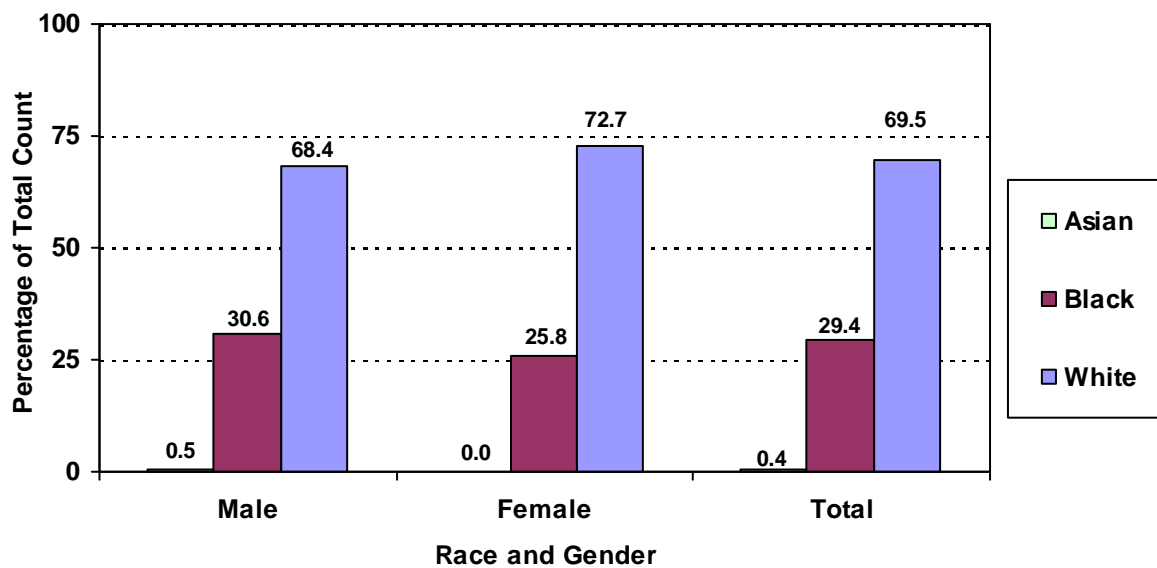
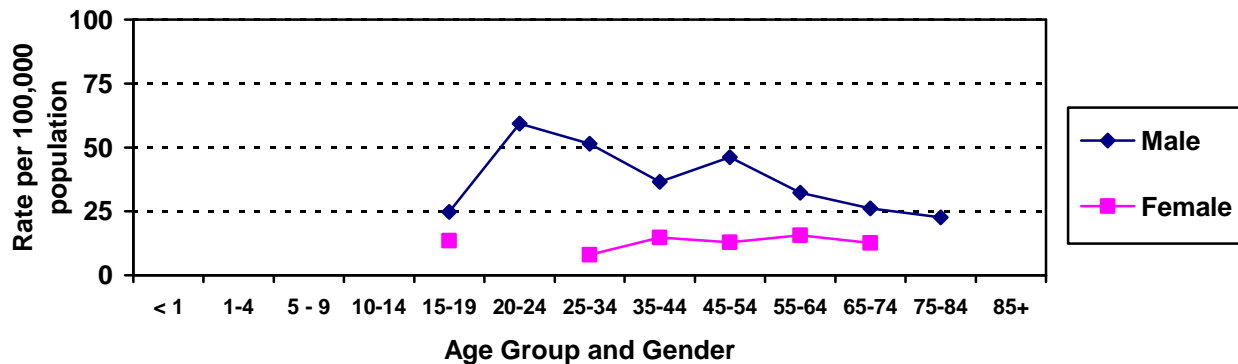


Table 4: Age Group by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	4	1.9	*	*	1	1.5	*	*	5	1.8
1 - 4	2	1.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	0.7
5 - 9	1	0.5	*	*	1	1.5	*	*	2	0.7
10 - 14	3	1.5	*	*	1	1.5	*	*	4	1.5
15 - 19	11	5.3	24.8	10.1 - 39.5	6	9.1	13.5	2.7 - 24.3	17	6.3
20 - 24	25	12.1	59.3	36.1 - 82.5	2	3.0	*	*	27	9.9
25 - 34	44	21.4	51.5	36.3 - 66.7	7	10.6	8.0	2.1 - 13.9	51	18.8
35 - 44	35	17.0	36.5	24.4 - 48.6	15	22.7	14.8	7.3 - 22.3	50	18.4
45 - 54	42	20.4	46.2	32.2 - 60.2	13	19.7	12.9	5.9 - 19.9	55	20.2
55 - 64	22	10.7	32.3	18.8 - 45.8	12	18.2	15.7	6.8 - 24.6	34	12.5
65 - 74	10	4.9	26.1	9.9 - 42.3	6	9.1	12.6	2.5 - 22.7	16	5.9
75 - 84	5	2.4	22.6	2.8 - 42.4	1	1.5	*	*	6	2.2
85 +	2	1.0	*	*	1	1.5	*	*	3	1.1
Total Deaths	206	100			66	100			272	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Overall Violent Death Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

SECTION II: SUICIDE

Table 5: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Suicide Victims in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	115	75.2	21.4	17.5 - 25.3
	Female	38	24.8	6.4	4.4 - 8.4
Race					
	American Indian	0	0	*	*
	Asian	1	0.7	*	*
	Black	17	11.1	5.8	3.1 - 8.5
	White	134	87.6	16.4	13.6 - 19.2
	Other	1	0.7	*	*
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	2	1.3	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	151	98.7	14.5	12.2 - 16.8
Age Group					
	10 - 14	1	0.7	*	*
	15 - 19	7	4.6	7.9	2.1 - 13.7
	20 - 24	12	7.8	14.0	6.1 - 21.9
	25 - 34	28	18.3	16.2	10.2 - 22.2
	35 - 44	27	17.6	13.7	8.5 - 18.9
	45 - 54	38	24.8	19.8	13.5 - 26.1
	55 - 64	23	15.0	15.9	9.4 - 22.4
	65 - 74	11	7.2	12.8	5.2 - 20.4
	75 - 84	4	2.6	*	*
	85 +	2	1.3	*	*
Total Deaths		153	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

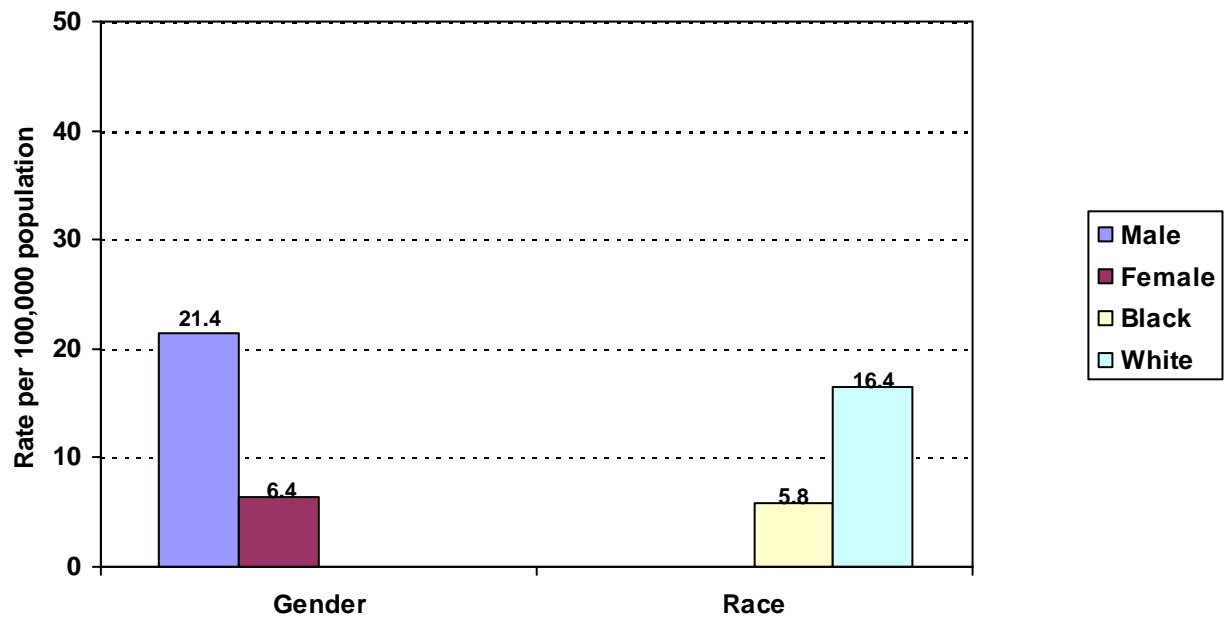
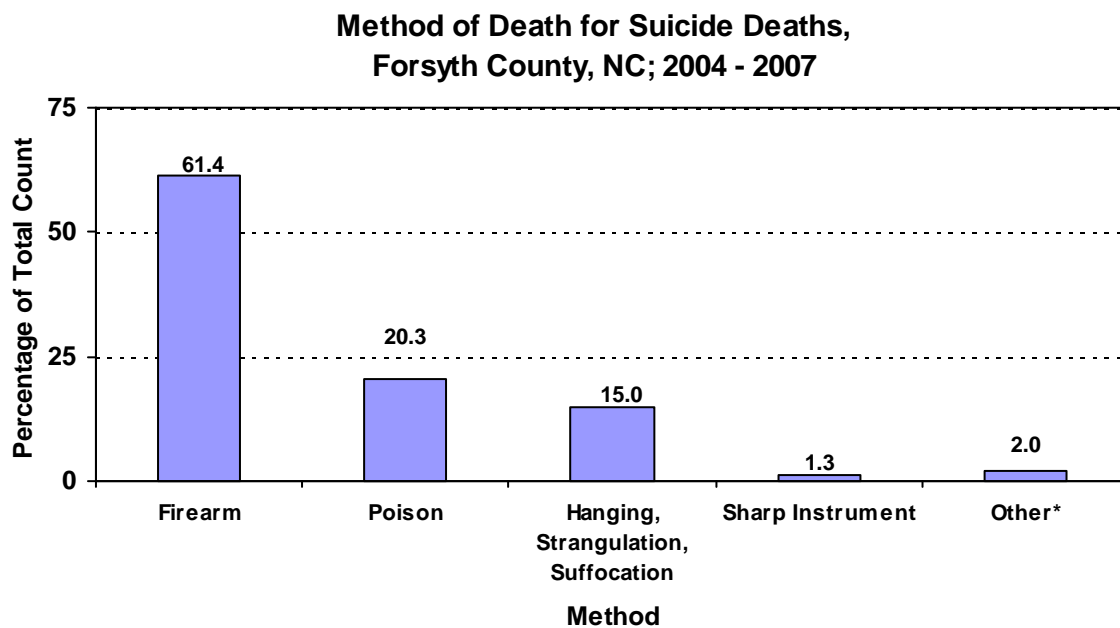


Table 6: Method of Death for Suicide Deaths in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Method			
	Firearm	94	61.4
	Poisoning	31	20.3
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	23	15.0
	Fire or Burns	2	1.3
	Sharp Instrument	2	1.3
	Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.7
Total Deaths		153	100



*Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, fires or burns, drowning, motor vehicle, falls, violent shaking, intentional neglect and other unspecified methods.

Table 7: Race by Gender of Suicide Victims in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
Asian	1	0.9	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.7
Black	13	11.3	9.8	4.5 - 15.1	4	10.5	*	*	17	11.1
White	100	87.0	25.3	20.3 - 30.3	34	89.5	8.1	5.4 - 10.8	134	87.6
Other/ Unknown	1	0.9	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.7

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Suicide Victims,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

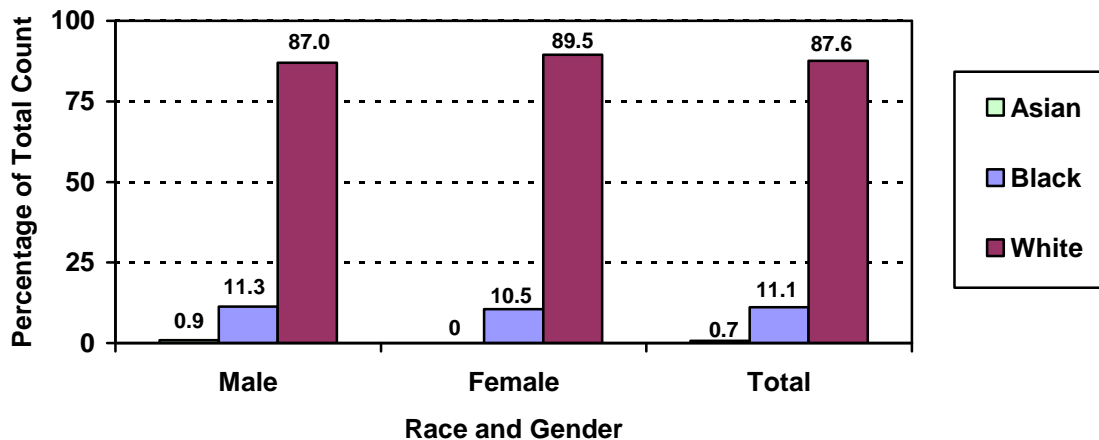
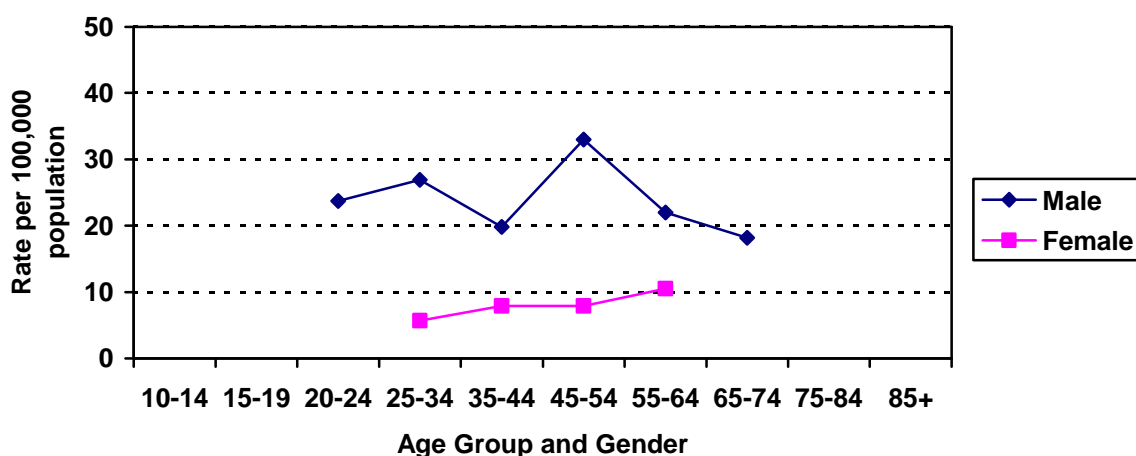


Table 8: Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
10 - 14	1	0.9	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.7
15 - 19	4	3.5	*	*	3	7.9	*	*	7	4.6
20 - 24	10	8.7	23.7	9.0 - 38.4	2	5.3	*	*	12	7.8
25 - 34	23	20.0	26.9	15.9 - 37.9	5	13.2	5.7	0.7 - 10.7	28	18.3
35 - 44	19	16.5	19.8	10.9 - 28.7	8	21.1	7.9	2.4 - 13.4	27	17.6
45 - 54	30	26.1	33.0	21.2 - 44.8	8	21.1	7.9	2.4 - 13.4	38	24.8
55 - 64	15	13.0	22.0	10.8 - 33.2	8	21.1	10.5	3.2 - 17.8	23	15.0
65 - 74	7	6.1	18.2	4.7 - 31.7	4	10.5	*	*	11	7.2
75 - 84	4	3.5	*	*	0	0	*	*	4	2.6
85 +	2	1.7	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	1.3
Total Deaths	115	100			38	100			153	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



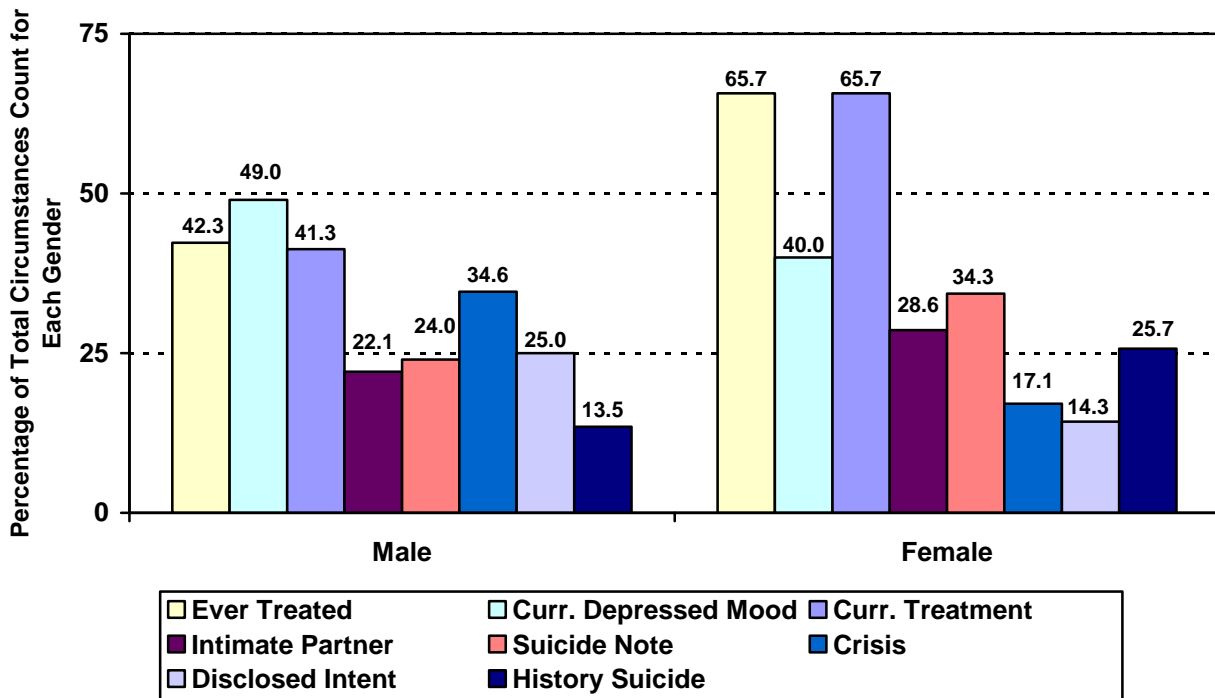
Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 9: Circumstances of Suicide Victims in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Victim Circumstances	51	49.0	14	40.0	65	46.8
Current depressed mood	43	41.3	23	65.7	66	47.5
Current treatment for mental illness	44	42.3	23	65.7	67	48.2
Ever treated for mental illness	9	8.7	1	2.9	10	7.2
Alcohol problem	12	11.5	1	2.9	13	9.4
Other substance problem	25	24.0	12	34.3	37	26.6
Left a suicide note	26	25.0	5	14.3	31	22.3
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	14	13.5	9	25.7	23	16.5
History of suicide attempts	36	34.6	6	17.1	42	30.2
Crisis in past two weeks	22	21.2	7	20.0	29	20.9
Physical health problem	23	22.1	10	28.6	33	23.7
Intimate partner problem	9	8.7	2	5.7	11	7.9
Other relationship problem	9	8.7	0	0	9	6.5
Job problem	0	0	0	0	0	0
School problem	5	4.8	2	5.7	7	5.0
Financial problem	0	0	1	2.9	1	0.7
Suicide of family or friend in past 5 years	1	1.0	0	0	1	0.7
Other death of friend/ family	7	6.7	0	0	7	5.0
Recent criminal/ legal problem	5	4.8	2	5.7	7	5.0
Other legal problems	5	4.8	1	2.9	6	4.3
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month	0	0	1	2.9	1	0.7
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Circumstances are only available for 1,000 of the 1,085 suicide deaths where age was ≥ 10 . The denominator of the percentage is the total number of suicide victims for each gender category who had circumstance data available. Each suicide victim may have 0 to many circumstances.

**Circumstances by Gender for Suicide Victims,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



*Note: Multiple options are available therefore such responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances.

**Table 10: Mental Illnesses Under Treatment at the Time of Suicide in
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Mental Illness			
Depression/ Dysthymia	37	18	55
Bipolar Disorder	6	3	9
Other	4	1	5
Anxiety Disorder	2	2	4
Schizophrenia	1	0	1
Eating Disorder	0	1	1
Unknown	1	0	1

SECTION III: HOMICIDE

Table 11: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Homicide Victims in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	78	80.4	12.4	9.7 - 15.1
	Female	19	19.6	2.8	1.5 - 4.1
Race					
	American Indian	0	0	*	*
	Asian	0	0	*	*
	Black	53	54.6	15.3	11.2 - 19.4
	White	43	44.3	4.6	3.2 - 6.0
	Unknown	1	1.0	*	*
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	19	19.6	15.3	8.4 - 22.2
	Non-Hispanic	78	80.4	6.6	5.1 - 8.1
Age Group					
	< 1	5	5.2	25.9	3.2 - 48.6
	1 - 4	1	1.0	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	3	3.1	*	*
	15 - 19	10	10.3	11.3	4.3 - 18.3
	20 - 24	15	15.5	17.5	8.6 - 26.4
	25 - 34	21	21.6	12.1	6.9 - 17.3
	35 - 44	20	20.6	10.1	5.7 - 14.5
	45 - 54	10	10.3	5.2	2.0 - 8.4
	55 - 64	5	5.2	3.5	0.5 - 6.5
	65 - 74	4	4.1	*	*
	75 - 84	2	2.1	*	*
	85 +	1	1.0	*	*
Total Deaths		97	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Homicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

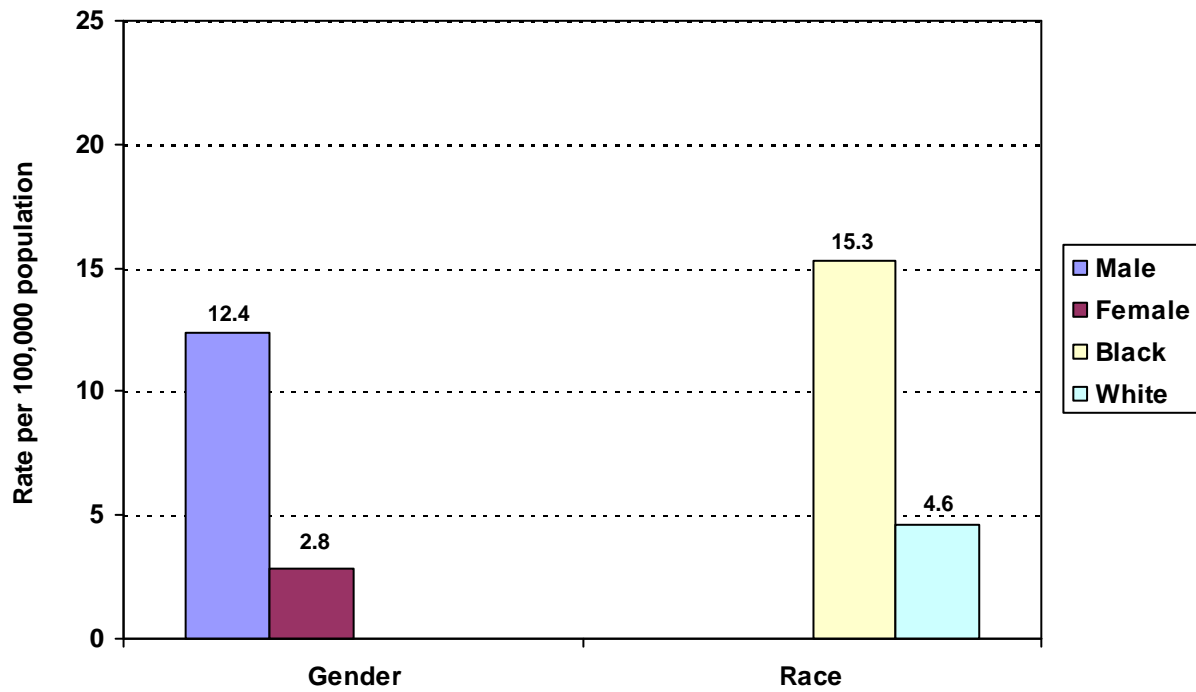
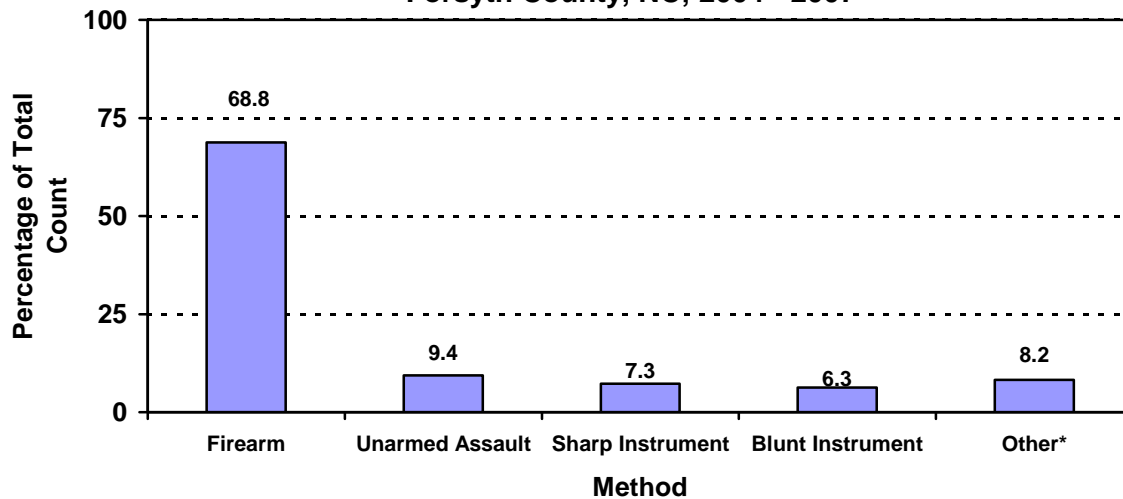


Table 12: Method of Death for Homicide Deaths in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Method		Number	%
	Firearm	66	68.8
	Unarmed Assault	9	9.4
	Sharp Instrument	7	7.3
	Blunt Instrument	6	6.3
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	4	4.2
	Fire or Burns	1	1.0
	Motor Vehicle	1	1.0
	Poisoning	1	1.0
	Unknown	2	2.0
Total Deaths		97	100

**Method of Death for Homicide Deaths,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



*Other methods include: hanging/strangulation/suffocation, poisonings, unarmed assaults, drowning, fires or burns, violent shaking, motor vehicles, intentional neglect and other unspecified methods.

Table 13: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
Black	44	56.4	27.8	19.6 – 36.0	9	47.4	4.8	1.7 - 7.9	53	54.6
White	34	43.6	7.4	4.9 - 9.9	9	47.4	1.9	0.7 - 3.1	43	44.3
Other/ Unknown	0	0	*	*	1	5.3	*	*	1	1.0

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Homicide Victims,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

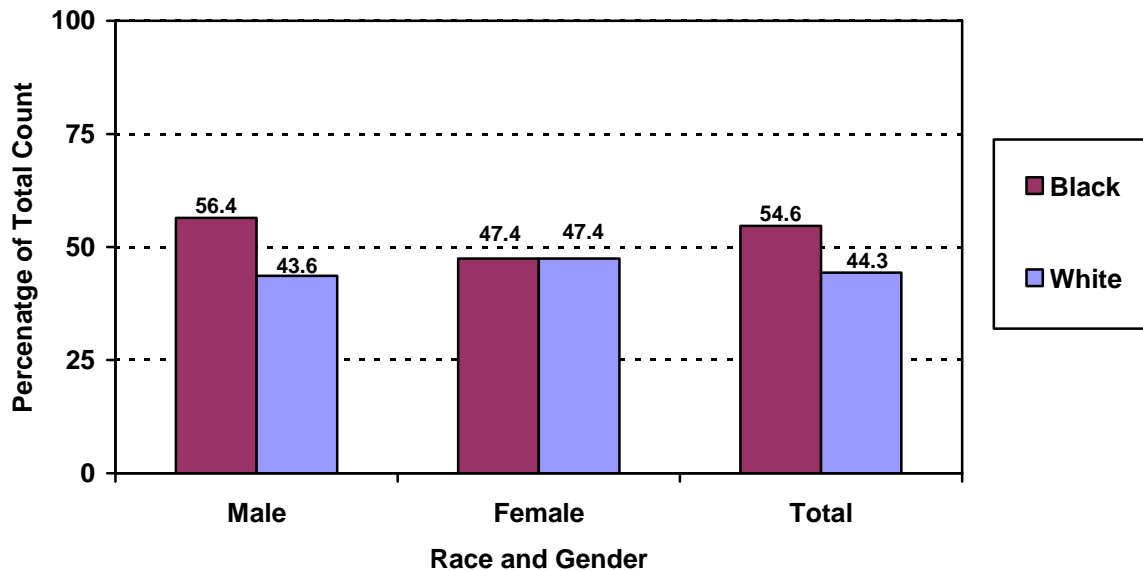
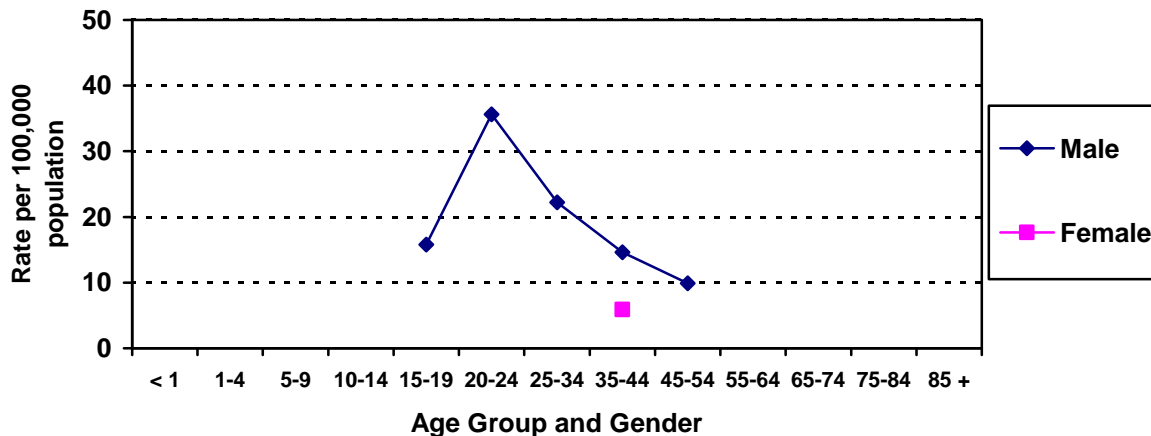


Table 14: Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	4	5.1	*	*	1	5.3	*	*	5	5.2
1 - 4	1	1.3	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	1.0
10 - 14	2	2.6	*	*	1	5.3	*	*	3	3.1
15 - 19	7	9.0	15.8	4.1 - 27.5	3	15.8	*	*	10	10.3
20 - 24	15	19.2	35.6	17.6 - 53.6	0	0	*	*	15	15.5
25 - 34	19	24.4	22.2	12.2 - 32.2	2	10.5	*	*	21	21.6
35 - 44	14	17.9	14.6	6.9 - 22.3	6	31.6	5.9	1.2 - 10.6	20	20.6
45 - 54	9	11.5	9.9	3.4 - 16.4	1	5.3	*	*	10	10.3
55 - 64	4	5.1	*	*	1	5.3	*	*	5	5.2
65 - 74	2	2.6	*	*	2	10.5	*	*	4	4.1
75 - 84	1	1.3	*	*	1	5.3	*	*	2	2.1
85 +	0	0	*	*	1	5.3	*	*	1	1.0
Total Deaths	64	100			19	100			97	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Homicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 15: Circumstances of Homicides in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Event Circumstances			
	Other argument, abuse, or conflict	40	51.9
	Precipitated by another serious crime	25	32.5
	Intimate partner violence related	12	15.6
	Drug involvement	6	7.8
	Argument over money or property	5	6.5
	Jealousy (Lovers Triangle)	2	2.6
	Brawl (mutual physical fight)	1	1.3
Victim Characteristics			
	Victim used a weapon	6	7.8
	Victim was a Bystander	1	1.3
	Victim was a Police Officer on Duty	1	1.3
	Justifiable self defense	1	1.3
	Intervener assisting Crime Victim	1	1.3

* The denominator of the percentage is the total number of homicide victims who had circumstance data available. Each homicide victim may have anywhere from zero to many circumstances.

Table 16: Crimes Precipitating Homicides in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Crime			
Robbery	13	0	13
Drug Trade	5	0	5
Burglary	4	0	4
Assault, Homicide	2	1	3
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	0	2
Rape, Sexual Assault	1	0	1
Gambling	1	0	1
Witness Intimidation/Elimination	1	0	1

Table 17: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Weapon Type	Manner of Death										Total	
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Firearm	94	61.4	66	68.8	2	100.0	1	100.0	0	0	163	59.9
Sharp Instrument	2	1.3	7	7.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3.3
Blunt Instrument	0	0	6	6.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.2
Poisoning	31	20.3	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	12	63.2	44	16.2
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	23	15.0	4	4.2	0	0	0	0	1	5.3	28	10.3
Unarmed Assault	0	0	9	9.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3.3
Fall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	10.5	2	0.7
Fire or Burns	2	1.3	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.1
Motor Vehicle	0	0	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	5.3	2	0.7
Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Unknown	0	0	2	2.0	0	0	0	0	3	15.8	5	1.8
Total Deaths	153	100	97	100	2	100	1	100	18	100	272	100

Table 18: Type of Firearm by Manner of Death in Forsyth County, NC; 2004 - 2007
For Firearm Deaths only

Firearm Type	Manner of Death									
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Handgun	72	76.6	50	75.8	2	100.0	1	100.0	125	76.7
Rifle	6	6.4	7	10.6	0	0	0	0	13	8.0
Shotgun	16	17.0	4	6.1	0	0	0	0	20	12.3
Unknown Firearm Type	0	0	5	7.6	0	0	0	0	5	3.1
Total Deaths	94	100	66	100	2	100	1	100	163	100

GLOSSARY

Adult	Person was 18 years of age or older on date of death.
Child	Person was less than 18 years of age on date of death.
Legal intervention	Decedent was killed by a police officer or some other peace officer, including military police, acting in the line of duty. Includes legal executions.
Occurrent death	Death occurred in NC. Decedent may or may not have been a NC resident at the time of death.
Peace officer	Person with specified legal authority to use deadly force.
Rates	Calculated as count x 100,000/population.
Resident death	Victim was a NC resident at the time of death and the death occurred in NC. All deaths reported in this report are resident deaths.
Undetermined intent	A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.
Violent death	Intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. Deaths meeting this definition include suicides, homicides, and legal interventions.



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Department of Health and Human Services
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary
Division of Public Health • Jeffrey P. Engel, State Health Director
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